

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 131758Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6660

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 03951

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, FR, SA

SUBJECT: ROBERT RICHARD, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO
SAUDI ARABIA

REF: PARIS 1677

1. ROBERT RICHARD, 53, A DIPLOMAT WITH EXTENSIVE
EXPERIENCE IN COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, HAS BEEN APPOINTED
FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA, REPLACING GEORGES
DE BOUTEILLER WHO IS BECOMING AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA.
RICHARD ENTERED THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE
IN 1949 AFTER GRADUATION FROM THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF
ADMINISTRATION (ENA). HE WAS SUCCESSIVELY COMMERCIAL
ATTACHE IN BUENOS AIRES (1950-53), CAIRO (1953-55),
HONG KONG (1956-60), AND WARSAW IN 1961; HE WAS
COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IN RABAT (1961-64), PEKING (1964-
67) AND ROME (1967-73). AFTER INTEGRATION INTO THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITH THE RANK OF
MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO SERVE
WITH THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO CSCE IN GENEVA IN
SEPTEMBER 1973.

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2. RICHARD AND HIS WIFE, ELIANE, WERE THE VICTIMS OF AN
IMBROGLIO IN PEKING IN LATE 1966 DURING THE CULTURAL
REVOLUTION WHICH CAUSED A SMALL SENSATION IN THE FRENCH
PRESS. THEY WERE PHYSICALLY MANHANDLED AND BRIEFLY
DETAINED BY DEMONSTRATING RED GUARDS. SHORTLY AFTER
THIS INCIDENT RICHARD LEFT PEKING FOR A NEW ASSIGNMENT
IN ROME. A PARIS EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO KNOWS RICHARD
WELL DESCRIBES HIM AS "ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT"; HE SHOULD
DO WELL IN HIS NEW POST DESPITE HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE
IN ARABIAN AFFAIRS. HE WILL NO DOUBT PLAY A MAJOR
ROLE IN PROMOTING FRENCH COMMERCIAL EXPANSION IN SAUDI
ARABIA.
RUSH

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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